

# Constructing Border Quilts

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*The Migrant Quilt Project believes in art and activism. The quilt-makers  
sew quilts out of migrants' discarded clothes found in the desert and  
embroider them with the names of migrants who died while attempting the  
journey. Angela Martinez, 2018*

looking for justice with thread, pins, needle  
and scissors, cutting shirts and dungarees abandoned  
out of necessity for the weight of the journey  
sharp mountains, miles of windy desert  
the owners needing to carry water and food  
more than excess clothing and empty *bordados*

the quilt pieced still looks like clothing  
so one can read these quilts as covering  
the brown limbs of individuals walking  
so one can protest the erasure of people who wore them  
lament their lives and thirsty feet funneled to America

who walked from poverty  
who walked away from injustice  
who walked from certain death  
to possible death

their full names embroidered  
or *desconocido* on material  
torn and stained with blood

a little girl's pink dress carefully mended  
stitched next to her mother's ripped blouse

a woman leaving her shoes behind and running